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Amendment, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Docket No.: 311412001820 (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Lori J. LEHMAN, et al.

Application No.: 09/966,982

Filed: September 27, 2001

For: NOVEL STRAIN OF STREPTOMYCES FOR CONTROLLING PLANT DISEASES

Group Art Unit: 1651

Examiner: D. Ware

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

530.00 04

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

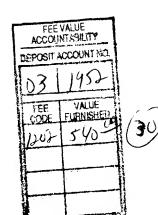
This is in response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003 (Paper No. 15). The deadline to respond to this action was October 30, 2003, for which a three month extension of time is requested to extend the time for response from October 30, 2003 to January 30, 2003.

Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS

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In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to <u>Deposit Account No. 03-1952</u> referencing docket no. 311412001820. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated January 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy A. Worrall

Registration No.: 54,552

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

755 Page Mill Road

Palo Alto, California 94304

(415) 268-7000